Scientific Committee
Minutes of the 82nd Plenary meeting

Held on 13-14 February 2017, EFSA

(Agreed on 6 March 2017)

Participants

- Scientific Committee Members:

  Tony Hardy (Chair), Thorhallur Halldorsson, Mike Jeger, Huw Jones, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Simon More, Alicja Mortensen, Hubert Noteborn, Colin Ockleford, Antonia Ricci, Guido Rychen, Josef Schlatter, Vittorio Silano, Roland Solecki and Dominique Turck.

- Hearing experts[1]:

  Jan Alexander (agenda item 4.2 only), Maged Younes (agenda items 4.4 and 5.3 only)

- European Commission: Marina Marini
- EFSA Management Board: Robert Van Gorcom (agenda item 5.1)
- EFSA:
  - **EXECUTIVE Directorate**: Bernhard Url (day 1), Hubert Deluyker, Juliane Kleiner, Alberto Spagnolli (day 1)
  - **COMMS Department**: Djien Liem
  - **RASA Department:** Hans Verhagen, Didier Verloo (agenda item 6)
  - **REPRO Department:** Guilhem de Seze, Jose' Tarazona (agenda item 5.4b)
  - **BuS Department:** Dirk Detken (agenda item 5.4d)
  - **SCER Unit**: Tobin Robinson, Bernard Bottex, Jean-Lou Dorne, Nikolaos Georgiadis, Andrea Germini, Tilemachos Goumperis, George Kass, Angelo Maggiore, Daniela Maurici, Caroline Merten, Agnes Rortais, Reinhilde Schoonjans.

[1] As defined in Article 11 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf.

- Observers from the delegation of the Food Safety Commission of Japan:
  - Dr Kaoru INOUE: Deputy Director, Assessment Methodology Development Office
  - Mr Yosuke YAMAHARA: Assistant Director, Assessment Methodology Development Office
  - Dr Takashi YAMADA: Toxicity database specialist from the National Institute of Health Sciences, Division of Risk Assessment

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Hanspeter Naegeli (replaced by Huw Jones) and Diane Benford.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Committee Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declarations of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting were identified during the screening process.

No additional interests were declared at the meeting.

4. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption

4.1. Draft opinion on Scientific motivations and criteria to consider updating EFSA scientific assessments (EFSA-Q-2016-00326): for discussion and possible adoption

The Scientific Committee was presented with the draft opinion on "Scientific motivations and criteria to consider updating EFSA scientific assessments". The current version was revised following comments received at the previous Scientific Committee plenary meeting and from different services within EFSA. Members of the SC made editorial comments that will be taken into consideration before publication of the Opinion.

The document was adopted for publication.

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf

4.2. Draft opinion on biological relevance (EFSA-Q-2014-00746): for possible endorsement for public consultation

Jan Alexander, chair of the WG on Biological relevance, presented the draft guidance on biological relevance proposed for endorsement for public consultation. The current version was revised following comments received at the previous Scientific Committee plenary meeting.

The SC members provided comments with regards to variabilities and critical effect as well as to the cross references describing the approach on Weight of evidence and Uncertainty in scientific assessments

The document was endorsed for public consultation provided that the comments raised at this meeting were taken into consideration.

The consultation will run for about 8 weeks and the comments will be considered before finalisation of the guidance (expected by the summer).

4.3. Draft guidance on the risk assessment of substances present in food intended for infants below 16 weeks of age (EFSA-Q-2016-00489): for discussion and possible endorsement for public consultation

Alicja Mortensen, chair of the WG Substances in Foods for Infants, presented the draft guidance on the risk assessment of substances present in food intended for infants below 16 weeks of age. The current version of the Guidance Document takes into account all the comments received at the last Scientific Committee plenary meeting.

The Scientific Committee discussed the revised draft and made comments on details of the proposed risk assessment strategy.

The document was endorsed, provided that the comments raised at this meeting would be taken into consideration, before going for public consultation.

The consultation will run until the end of March and the comments will be considered before finalisation of the guidance expected in late spring.

4.4. Draft guidance on the weight of evidence approach (EFSA-Q-2015-00007): for possible endorsement for public consultation

Maged Younes, chair of the WG on Weight of evidence, presented the revised draft of the Guidance document, highlighting the changes introduced following the comments received at the last Scientific Committee plenary meeting.

The SC members proposed editorial changes in specific chapters of the document as well as to clarify, in the introduction, that the approach proposed in the document does not differ from the current practice of the panels, but rather focuses on better structuring the way the different lines of evidence are assembled, weighed and integrated. It was reiterated that

the goal is to increase the transparency and consistency of the scientific assessments conducted by the EFSA panels.

The document was endorsed provided that the comments raised at this meeting are taken into consideration, before the opening of the public consultation process.

The consultation will run for about 8 weeks and the comments will be considered before finalisation of the guidance expected by the summer.

5. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

5.1. Address from the vice chair of the EFSA Management Board

Robert Van Gorcom, vice-chair of the EFSA Management Board (MB), presented two issues: the external evaluation process of EFSA activities and the proposed changes in the establishment and operation of EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels.

External evaluation

As stipulated in EFSA's founding regulation, an external evaluation of EFSA's working practices and activities should take place every 6 years. The evaluation should take into account the views of EFSA stakeholders at EU and national level and should lead to specific recommendations being issued.

The evaluation will focus on i) fit for purpose, ii) value for money, iii) agility of the system, iv) cooperation with EU and globally, and v) reputation at EU and global level.

The evaluation process and the subsequent MB recommendations are expected to be completed by October 2018.

Changes in establishment and operations of Scientific Committee and Panels

The last update of the MB decision on the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee and Panels dates back to March 2012. The MB is in the process of revising its decision that will be applicable for the 2018 renewal of the 10 Panels and the Scientific Committee. The major changes proposed pertain to the maximum number of years of permanence as a member of a specific Panel (3 terms of 3 years) and as chair of a specific Panel (2 terms of 3 years) and to the flexibility in the number of members of each Panel (between 15 and 25). Further proposals address the abstention from adoption of an opinion (which will no longer be allowed) and a better definition of the role of EFSA staff.

These proposals will be discussed for possible adoption at the next MB on 21-22 March 2017.

The SC took note of the proposals and highlighted that it would be advisable to discuss the possibility to increase the number of independent

experts of the SC (for the moment limited by the Founding Regulation to only 6) in order to have a number of members serving the SC similar to those sitting in the Panels.

5.2. Feedback from the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups

- **SWG Genotoxicity** (EFSA-Q-2017-00074)

EFSA received a mandate from the European Commission asking for clarification and consideration of several aspects of genotoxicity assessment. As the request is of a cross-cutting nature, the mandate has been assigned to the SC who will produce a statement by the end of the summer. Due to the resignation of Diane Benford as chair of the SWG on genotoxicity for health reasons, the chair of the SC, in consultation with the head of the Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit, decided to propose Josef Schlatter as chair of the WG that will support the SC for the preparation of the draft statement. Josef Schlatter accepted the nomination.

The kick off meeting will take place on 16-17 February. Composition of the WG has been updated to reflect the expertise needed to address the mandate.

- **WG on Compendium of Botanicals (version 3.0)** (EFSA-Q-2012-00486)

The working group's activity, consisting in validating composition and toxicity data for around 3000 plant species, is ongoing and is expected to be finalised by mid-2018. These data will then be transferred to the 3rd version of the EFSA Compendium of botanicals containing naturally occurring substances of possible concern for human health. For further information, see http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/data/compendium-botanicals.

- **WG on chemical mixtures** (EFSA-Q-2016-00307)

Following the public consultation launched at the end of 2016 on the terms of reference for developing a guidance for the risk assessment of chemical mixtures, the WG addressed the comments received. A technical report has been prepared that summarises the comments received from Stakeholders, together with EFSA's answers, and presents the new ToR taking into account the comments. The SC endorsed the technical report and the new ToR.

- **WG MUST-B** (EFSA-Q-2016-00358)

A procurement was awarded in the beginning of 2017 to develop the landscape-based model designed by the MUST-B WG. The objective of this model is to assess risks to honey bee colonies from pesticide exposure and other stressors. The MUST-B WG is drafting specifications for a field data collection to calibrate and evaluate the model

performance. The WG proposes field sampling in 4 Member States with two types of honey bee subspecies. In the field design, it is also proposed to select landscapes with both high and low fitness (in terms of resources for colonies). Colonies will be distributed across those sites and validated measurement tools and methods will be selected to conduct the data collection.

In the context of the European Bee Week, EFSA is organising a scientific colloquium on 26 June to support efforts towards a closer collaboration with stakeholders to increase data collection efforts and data sharing in EU on bee health. In particular, the colloquium will give the opportunity to promote networking through the setting of an EU bee partnership with all involved and interested stakeholders.

- **WG on nanotechnologies** (EFSA-Q-2016-00281)

The working group has updated Chapters 1-3 of the guidance on risk assessment of nanoscience and nanotechnology in the food and feed chain. These chapters clarify the current definitions, a pragmatic general risk assessment scheme and the parameters for physico-chemical characterisation of the material. The work will now progress into the chapter of biological data, organised according to a tiered approach.

The kick off meeting for the procurement on Nanotechnology in agri/food/feed products (e.g."nanocarrier") will take place on 16 February. Finalisation of the project is expected by the end of 2017. The results will be used for complementing the draft guidance.

- **WG on uncertainty in risk assessment** (EFSA-Q-2013-00738)

The testing phase of the draft Guidance document is proceeding. Only two case studies have been completed so far. with the majority of the rest expected to be finalised by April. The WGs having trialled the guidance document will be asked to participate in a survey to assess the impact of applying the guidance to their risk assessments and the applicability of the guidance document. In addition, representatives from all the case studies have been invited to an internal workshop that will take place in June to present the outcome of the testing phase and discuss how to improve the guidance. The Panel chairs are invited to support the participation of their relevant experts and staff as this is the opportunity to suggest improvements and to enhance applicability.

The EFSA RISKCOM unit is coordinating the launch of a survey on how to communicate uncertainty in scientific assessment to different stake-holders. Seven countries will actively participate in disseminating the survey. The outcome of this survey will be used for the preparation of a separate guidance document addressing the communication aspects of uncertainty in scientific assessment.

- **WG on Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC)**

The initiation of the work related to this WG has been delayed

- **Proposal for a SWG on Benchmark dose (BMD)**

The SC was presented with a proposal to set up a standing working group on BMD. Josef Schlatter was proposed as the Chair of this new WG. The format of this WG will mimic the SWG on genotoxicity, where the aim is to provide advice to specific questions posed by the panels. This will be needed in order to ensure a consistent use of the BMD concept in the light of the updated guidance published at the beginning of 2017.

5.3. Feedback from the chairs of the Scientific Panels

5.3a Activities in the area of the ANS panel

At present, the ANS Panel continues working on re-evaluation of nitrites and nitrates as food additives. The re-evaluation is coming to a close as the adoption of the scientific opinion is foreseen in April 2017. Details regarding this activity were presented by Maged Younes, chair of the WG Re-evaluation of Nitrates-Nitrites. The two draft opinions were shared with the Scientific Committee owing to the horizontal nature of the scientific issues and with the CONTAM panel. The SC members and CONTAM panel were requested to send their comments by 24 February 2017 to the ANS secretariat in order to present them during the next ANS Plenary meeting on 28 February-2 March 2017.

Alicja Mortensen, chair of the ANS Panel, provided a presentation on the re-evaluation of titanium dioxide (TiO2) as food additive as an example of inter-panels and inter-agencies collaboration. The re-evaluation of this food additive was completed by the ANS Panel in June 2016 and the scientific opinion published in September 2016. On 20 January 2017 a new experimental animal study conducted by the French INRA on TiO2 was published in Scientific Reports (Bettini et al., 2017). The authors reported possible harmful effects on the immune system and the development of pre-neoplastic colonic lesions associated with intake of TiO2. This new scientific information is being assessed by the French Food Safety Agency (ANSES), also in the context of a more general review of the safety of nanomaterials in food. EFSA has been in contact with ANSES with respect to their ongoing assessment and the SC will be updated on the status of the activities at its next plenary meeting.

Due to time constraint, the presentation was shorter than originally planned. The chair of the Panel will be given the possibility to have a more extensive presentation of the Panel activities at the next SC plenary.

5.3b Feedback from the Scientific Panels and other scientific activities

AHAW Panel

The activities of the AHAW Panel are currently concentrated in three main areas:

- support of the new Animal Health Law by listing and categorising 28 animal diseases.
- the activities on emergency animal diseases such as avian influenza, African swine fever and lumpy skin disease
- the activities on vector-borne diseases, with particular emphasis on innovative approaches to risk communication.

The Panel is also piloting the draft guidance on uncertainty in scientific assessment with two opinions, including one focusing on animal welfare.

BIOHAZ Panel

Since the last meeting of the Scientific Committee, the following Opinions of cross-cutting interest have been adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel:

- Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA
- Joint EFSA (BIOHAZ and AHAW) and EMA Scientific Opinion on measures to reduce the need to use antimicrobial agents in animal husbandry in the European Union and the resulting impacts on food safety
- Scientific Opinion on the risk for the development of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) due to feeding calves with milk

The Panel received a new mandate on "Request for a joint ECDC, EFSA and EMA scientific opinion on a list of outcome indicators as regards surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial consumption in humans and food-producing animals".

In its last plenary meeting, the Panel discussed the possibility of selecting one of the BIOHAZ Opinions for testing the WoE guidance and the opinion on "poultry meat inspection" was selected.

CEF Panel

During its last two plenaries, the CEF Panel adopted two opinions on food contact materials and six opinions on flavourings, including the safety of caffeine and theobromine as flavouring substances in food.

The Panel is trialling the implementation of the principles of the Uncertainty guidance in the field of food contact materials: the FCM WG opted for a qualitative rather than for a quantitative approach as this

would fit the purpose in deciding which questions for additional information to ask the applicant during the pre-market safety assessment of a FCM.

The CEF (and ANS) Panel will be asked to endorse specific sections of the upcoming FEEDAP Guidance Document on the characterisation of microbial strains and feed additives obtained by them. The Guidance addresses the safety assessment of products like food enzymes, flavourings and additives obtained by fermentation of GMMs.

EFSA intends to publish a new EFSA administrative guidance document on plastic food contact materials and a revised Note for Guidance for FCM substances to update the information requirements that are considered obsolete or not completely in line with other EFSA guidance documents in use.

CONTAM Panel

In May 2016 the Scientific Opinion of the CONTAM Panel on the risks for human health related to the presence of 3- and 2-monochloropropanediol (MCPD), and their fatty acid esters, and glycidyl fatty acid esters in food was published[4]. These substances were subsequently assessed by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA) at their 83rd meeting (8-17 November 2016)[5].
The Panel has identified a divergent opinion between JECFA and EFSA on 3-MCPD (3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol or 3-chloropropane-1,2-diol) and glycidyl esters. While there is a substantial alignment of the two scientific bodies in the identification of the hazards for 3-MCPD and its fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty acid esters, the divergence consists mainly in the dose-response analyses performed, due to methodological differences in the application of the benchmark dose (BMD) approach.

Following a detailed analysis of the divergence and an exchange of views with the SC working group on BMD, the CONTAM Panel considers that an update of its Scientific Opinion is warranted in view of the updated guidance of the EFSA SC on the use of benchmark dose approach in risk assessment[6] (published in January 2017). The deadline proposed is end 2017 at the latest.
The SC agreed to the suggestion to re-open the 3-MCPD assessment and not the one of glycidyl esters. It was noted that in the latter, the large uncertainties due to the limitations in the available experimental data cannot be reduced by application of the revised BMD guidance. It was furthermore noted that an adequate refinement of the dose response

[4] http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2016.4426/abstract
[5] http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq821e.pdf
[6] http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4658/abstract;jsessionid=CE26E40E44DC28CBCEE9A7F77F56C405.f03t01

analysis can only be achieved with the availability of a carcinogenicity study conducted with an appropriate design.
The SC recommended involving the forthcoming standing WG on BMD in this activity.

FEEDAP Panel

The Panel is piloting the Uncertainty Guidance and the Prometheus methodology on a previous inconclusive opinion for a zootechnical additive adopted in 2013. The exercise is expected to be completed by March 2017.

The Panel is currently updating the guidance documents in the area of feed additives. Four of these guidance (Characterisation; Microbial characterisation; Safety for target species; and Consumer safety) are expected to be endorsed for public consultation in 2017. The Guidance on microbial characterisation is being developed in a WG in which members of the GMO, CEF, ANS and BIOHAZ Panels or their relevant Working Groups are present. Relevant experts from the NDA Panel will be also consulted. By specific request from the European Commission, part of this guidance (that related to the absence of genetically modified production cells and their DNA in the product when produced with GMMs) will be endorsed by the GMO, CEF and ANS Panels.

GMO Panel

The GMO Panel is developing Guidance Documents in the following areas:

- Possible derogation of existing requirements for applications of GM foods and feeds at low levels submitted under regulation (EC) 1829/2003, expected to be adopted in September 2017
- Allergenicity assessment of genetically modified plants, expected to be adopted in May 2017
- Update of the 2011 guidance on Post Market Environmental Monitoring

The Panel has also developed an internal strategy document on risk assessment of stacks and is currently working on test cases.

NDA Panel

The NDA Panel has recently endorsed for public consultation:

- a draft guidance document for applications on infant and follow-on formulae manufactured from protein hydrolysates
- an opinion on follow-on formulae with lower protein content
- a draft protocol for a systematic review on health outcomes related to the age of introduction of complementary food for the scientific assessment of the appropriate age of introduction of complementary feeding into an infant's diet.

A technical meeting with stakeholders will take place in Parma on 6 March to discuss the implementation of the new novel food Regulation that will come into force in 2018.

The NDA Panel and Unit are supporting the testing of the methodology described in the Uncertainty and in the Weight of evidence guidance documents with case studies.

PLH Panel

A joint EFSA EPPO Workshop was held at EFSA on 12-14 December 2016. The workshop addressed the role and applications of models in plant health and how models can support risk assessment of plant pests and decision-making. These kind of activities greatly contribute to increase EFSA's international collaboration in specific domains.

PPR Panel

The PPR Panel recently endorsed, for public consultation, a Guidance document on Dermal Absorption and adopted a scientific opinion investigating experimental toxicological properties of plant protection products having a potential link to Parkinson's disease and childhood leukaemia.

The Panel is also working on:

- a scientific opinion on the follow-up of the findings of the External Scientific report 'Literature review on epidemiological studies linking exposure to pesticides and health effects'. The status of the activities for this project will be presented at the next SC plenary meeting.
- a scientific opinion on the state of the science on pesticide risk assessment for amphibians and reptiles.

The PPR Panel has received a request from the European Commission for a scientific opinion on pesticides in foods for infants and young children. The work is expected to be completed by July 2018 and will take into consideration the work carried out by the SC on the risk assessment of substances present in food intended for infants below 16 weeks of age.
The Guidance of the Scientific Committee on the use of the Benchmark dose approach in risk assessment was presented to the PPR Panel.
The Panel was presented with an overview of the OECD/EFSA Workshop on Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT) on the use of non-animal test methods for regulatory purposes.
The Panel also discussed the proposal for a possible new activity on the use of historical control data in hazard assessment.

5.4. Feedback from EFSA

5.4a Report back on issues relevant for the Scientific Committee

Bernhard Url, EFSA Executive Director, introduced a discussion on two important drivers impacting on EFSA activities: the societal need and demand for higher scrutiny and the decrease in resources. EFSA is taking action to face these new challenges and the harmonisation of methodologies and terminology among Panels is a leverage to address both issues; EFSA Panels and Units should evolve in this and Panel chairs at the SC can give a major contribution to the harmonization process. On the other hand EFSA needs to obtain efficiency gains to face the decrease of resources and will therefore need to restructure some of its processes to achieve its goal more efficiently.

The SC concurred with the analysis presented by the ED and agreed to take part in a dedicated workshop to discuss the open issues that the analysis presented and reflect about the SC role, responsibilities and the work programme for 2017. The workshop will take place back to back with the next SC plenary meeting.

5.4b Update on the mandate to EFSA and ECHA for the development of guidance for the implementation of the hazard based criteria to identify endocrine disruptors

The SC was presented with an update on the development of a Guidance document for the implementation of hazard based criteria to identify endocrine disruptors. The guidance development, following an EC mandate, is a joint activity of EFSA and ECHA with the support of JRC, and will cover the hazard identification process of pesticides and biocides. A consultation group will also be organised with stakeholders of EFSA and ECHA to support the development of the Guidance.

The SC recommended that the work is carried on in line with the ongoing SC activities on cross-cutting guidance documents e.g. on weight of evidence.

5.4c Update on emerging risks activities

The SC was presented with an overview of the activities in the area of Emerging Risks' identification and related methodological developments. The Scientific Committee was updated about the discussion that took place at the 62nd Advisory Forum where the collaboration with Member States was discussed. The AF members are interested in intensifying the exchange of information and it was proposed to review the communication strategy and give a role to the EFSA focal points in order to intensify exchanges with National networks. An online platform for sharing information on emerging issues was also proposed. A thematic grant on methodologies to improve emerging risks' identification was awarded to a consortium of Art. 36 organizations and the kick off meeting is scheduled for early April.

Information and recommendations by EFSA networks on i) Food supplements: recurring issues, ii) Aquaculture "level playing field", iii) *Echinococcus multilocularis* new pathways and iv) follow up of investigations on outbreaks related to raw beetroot consumption, were discussed. The results of a pilot project on the use of a text mining tool for the identification of Emerging risks were presented. The final external report is available online here.

5.4d Update on revision of policy on independence

The SC was presented with the revised EFSA Policy on independence. The draft policy has been submitted for written consultation to the Management Board and will be discussed at the next MB meeting before being published for public consultation. The draft focuses on EFSA's characterization of conflict of interest and on the transparency in competing interests' management. It is expected that the new policy will be effective as of Q3 2017.

5.4e Update on the International Scientific Cooperation draft work plan 2017-2020

The SC was presented with the draft work plan for EFSA's international scientific cooperation activities for 2017-2020. Thus far, good progress can be noted in cooperation activities aimed at worldwide sharing of data and information on food-related risks, on the development of shared databases, on the introduction of alternative approaches to reduce animal testing, and the introduction of harmonised approaches for exposure and risk assessment. In the forthcoming period, EFSA will put more emphasis on international capacity building and in creating multilateral liaison groups focused on global harmonisation in risk assessment and risk communication, making use of all experience and expertise built-up by the Scientific Committee and Panels and its networks with the EU Member States.

6. Any other business

- Meeting with DG SANTE on environmental protection goals, June 2017- for info

EFSA, together with the Commission, is organising a meeting to establish a procedure for dialogue between risk assessors and risk managers on protection goals. During this exploratory meeting, the specific requirements for the sectors of GMO, PPP, FEED and invasive alien species will be discussed by the respective EFSA Units and their EC counterpart Units. During the meeting, the method used by EFSA to derive specific environmental protection goal options will be explained and examples will be given for 3 organisms groups. Possible follow up actions related to designing the structure of the dialogue will be envisaged.

- Workshop on Benchmark Dose (BMD), Brussels, 1-2 March

EFSA will organise a workshop in Brussels, on 1-2 March 2017, to present its recently updated guidance on the use of the benchmark dose approach in risk assessment and discuss possible harmonised use of this methodology for dose-response modelling with its partners. Around 65 participants will attend the event. The workshop will also be web-streamed to allow all interested parties to follow the presentations and the discussion. For further information, see http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/170301-0.

- Info on "Knowledge junction: open access to scientific models and tools"

The open repository that EFSA has developed to collect relevant information for its risk assessment was presented to the SC. The repository has been populated so far with all the models developed by EFSA and further resources will soon be made available (e.g. current Information Exchange Platform). The documents and models stored in the EFSA Knowledge Junction are freely available to everyone through internet. The SC members were invited to promote the use of this repository and encourage their Panel and WG colleagues and their home institutions to share models on the Knowledge Junction. The AMU unit would also be available to give a presentation on this new EFSA repository at Panel plenary meetings. For further information see https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/161114

- Open plenary meetings in 2017 – for info

Open plenary meetings will be held in Parma instead of Brussels. The expected benefit of moving the open plenaries to a more central location, such as Brussels, did not lead to a higher participation of stakeholders other than industry representatives. In order to enhance transparency in EFSA's risk assessment process, the 2017 open plenaries will be web-streamed and available to registered observers.

- Update calendar of 2017 SC plenary meetings – for info

SC members were notified that due to logistic constraints, the SC Open plenary has been moved from November to 12-13 July, and as a consequence the July meeting has been extended to two full days.
SC members were also informed that the next SC plenary meeting will be extended half day before the meeting to organize a SC workshop to discuss role and responsibilities of the SC and the 2017 work programme. The next meeting will therefore take place in Parma from 25 April lunch time to 27 April lunch time.

- Possibility of info session on Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) - for info

A dedicated info session on EKE to Panel plenary meetings could be organized upon request.

- New experts compensation guide – for info

The Expert compensation guide has been updated and was distributed to experts together with their invitation to this SC Plenary meeting. Should there be any question, experts are invited to contact the SC Secretariat.

END OF MEETING